

As a consumer of digital content, I have a grave concern about the proposed Broadcast Flag. It appears to be one-sided and not in the interests of consumers like me. Certainly, it is less likely I will buy a digital tv, if the outcome is determined by interests in conflict with my own.

In fact, I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove not only the control and flexibility that I enjoy, but to limit my fair use.

I am a law-abiding consumer who believes that piracy should be prevented and prosecuted. However, if theoretical prevention comes at the cost of prohibiting me from making legal, personal use of my content, then the FCC should be working to protect all consumers rather than enable those who would restrict consumer rights. Previous piracy controls simply made things harder for law-abiding folk like myself without noticeable impact on those who would steal the ideas and products of others. With file-sharing networks, a TV program has only to be cracked once, and it will propagate rapidly across the Internet. So, while I may be required to purchase consumer electronic devices that cost more and allow me to do less, piracy will not be diminished.

Please do the right thing. Surely history will judge those who act in the general interests of their constituents far more kindly than those who put the interests of celebrities and cash ahead of social good.